

Welcome To Sunday Night Bible Fellowship

Every word inspired.



Every word proclaimed.

*"We proclaim Him, warning every man and teaching every man
with all wisdom, so that we may present every man mature in
Christ." Col 1:28*

The Church at Laodicea

"Lukewarm"

Rev. 3:14-22

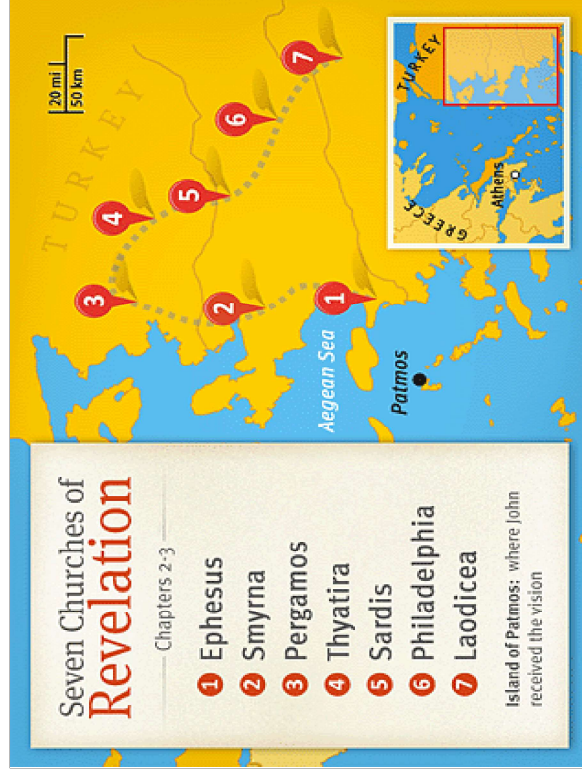
Feb. 26, 2017

Seven Churches of Revelation

Chapters 2-3

- 1 Ephesus
- 2 Smyrna
- 3 Pergamos
- 4 Thyatira
- 5 Sardis
- 6 Philadelphia
- 7 Laodicea

Island of Patmos: where John received the vision



Rev 3:14-22

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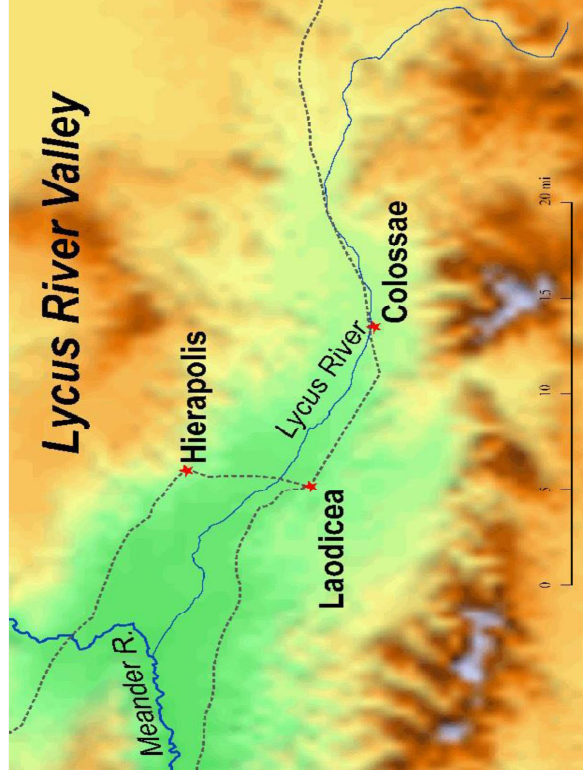
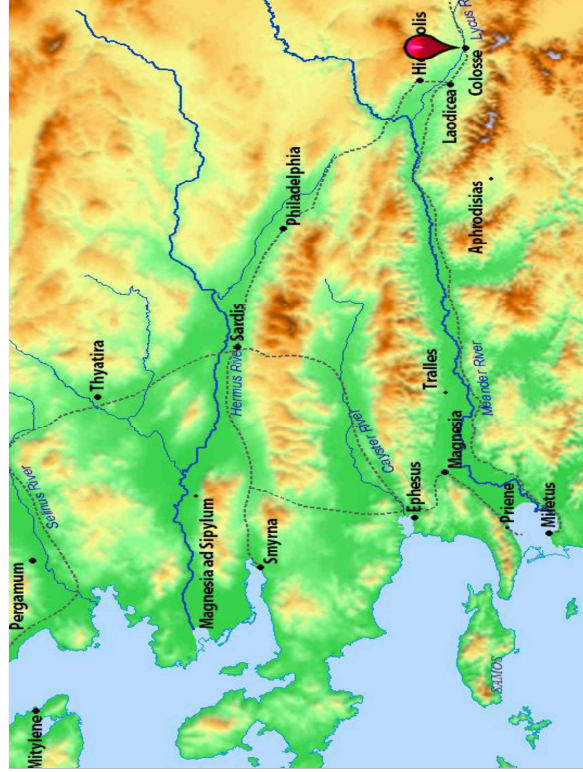
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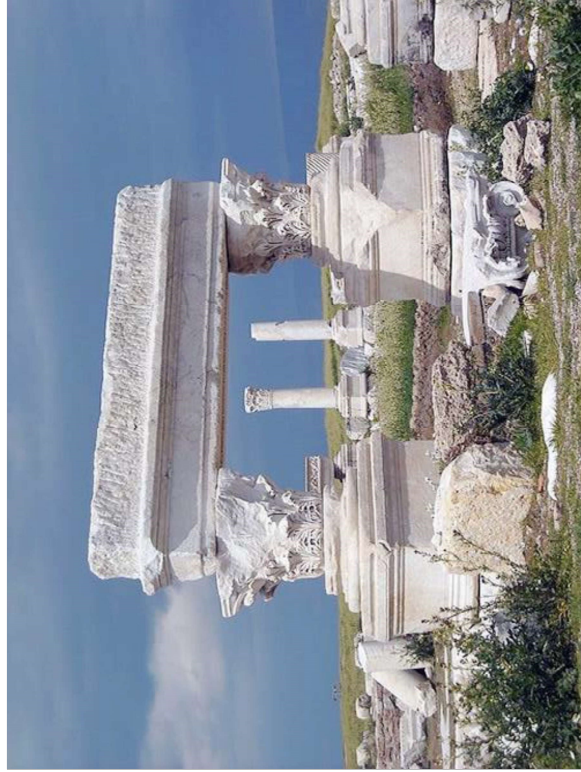
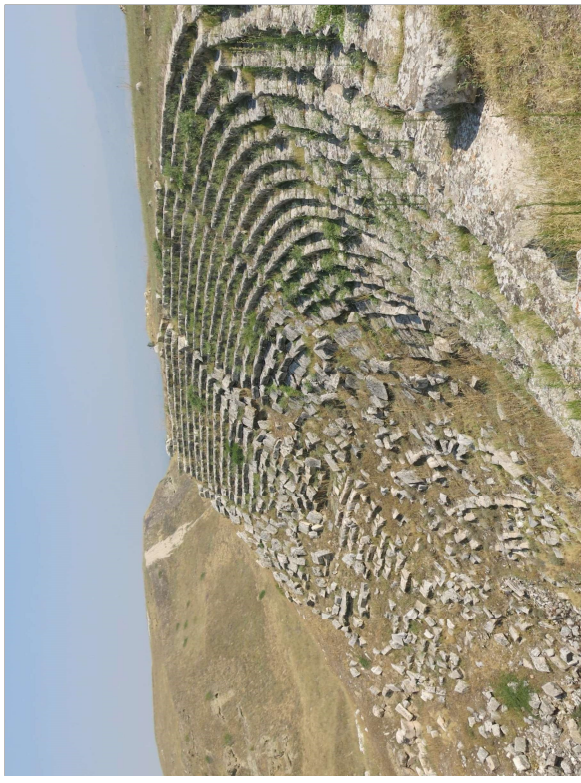
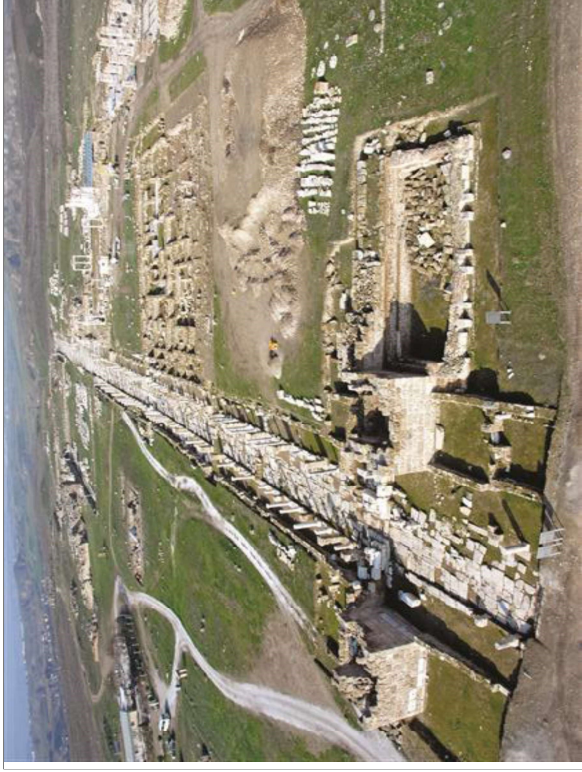
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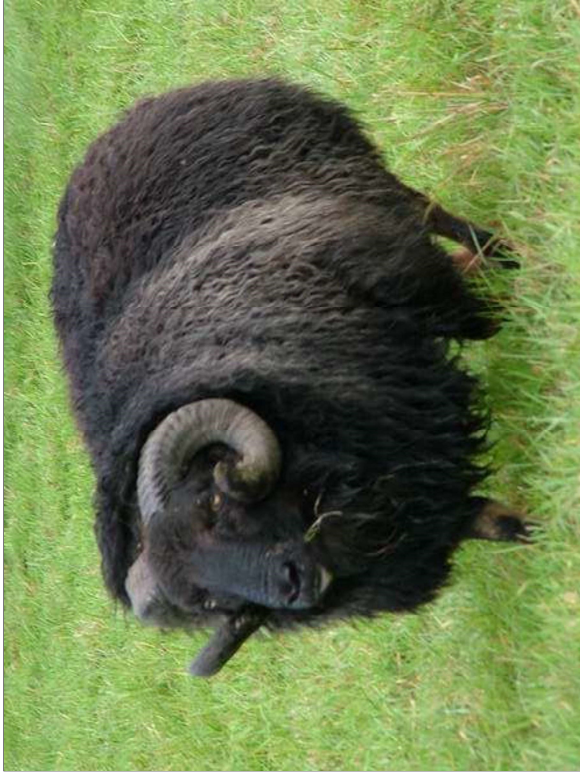
22 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'"





City of Laodicea

1. Founded in 261-253 BC by Antiochus II and named after his wife Laodice.
 2. Laodicea means “people ruling.”
 3. It was the richest city of the 7 cities and maybe in the world at that time.
 4. It had many buildings including a stadium, baths, temples, a gymnasium, theatres, and Senate House.
 5. Laodicea became one of the most important and flourishing commercial centers of Asia Minor.
- **Center of Finance**
Banking - large money transactions.
 - **Center of Garment Manufacturing**
Known for black wool – used for garments and carpets. Fashion center.



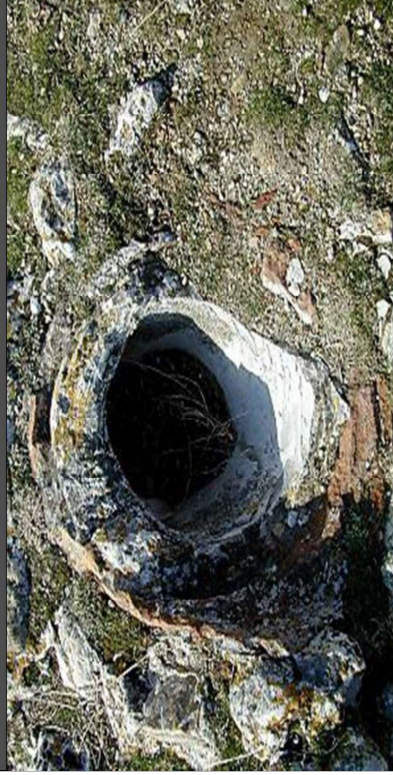
- **Center of Medicine**

- Produced an eye salve for those with eye problems.
- 6. The city had become very independent and self-sufficient. When leveled by an earthquake in 60 AD, they refused any help or money from the emperor, Nero, to rebuild. They financed it all themselves.
- 7. The one major drawback of the city was its lack of a fresh water supply. Lycus River was too dirty. Streams too small, filled with impurities, gases and chemicals and many dried up during the winter.
- 8. Water had to be brought in in underground aqueducts from many miles away. The pipes would often become corroded with calcium carbonate. Hieropolis had hot springs where many came for healing, and Colossae had cold refreshing water for drinking. However as the water flowed through the pipes from either direction it became lukewarm and was filled with calcium carbonate and would make the people sick to the point of vomiting.



Aqueduct

The water that was piped to Laodicea was rich with calcium which over time would cause the pipes to clog. The engineers designed the aqueduct with vents covered with stones that could be removed periodically for cleaning.





The Church at Laodicea

1. It is not known who was the founder of the church – maybe Paul, maybe Epaphras, or maybe Archippus.

Col 1:5-8

5 because of the hope laid up for you in heaven, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, the gospel

6 which has come to you, just as in all the world also it is constantly bearing fruit and increasing, even as it has been doing in you also since the day you heard of it and understood the grace of God in truth;

7 just as you learned it from Epaphras, our beloved fellow bond-servant, who is a faithful servant of Christ on our behalf,

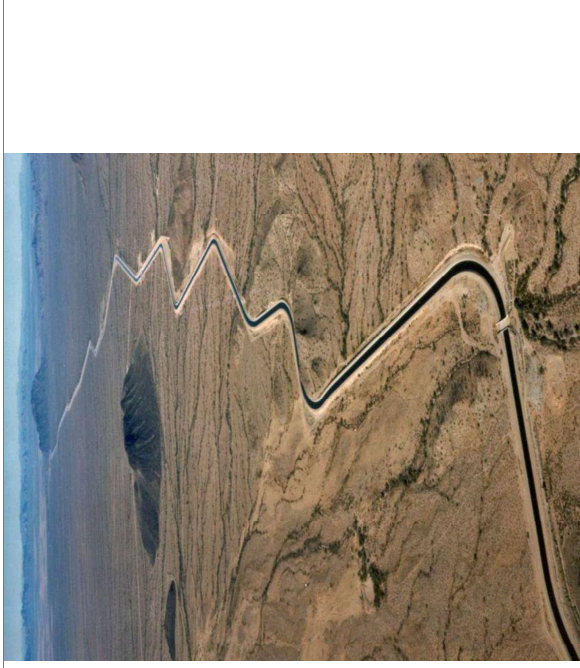
8 and he also informed us of your love in the Spirit.

Col 4:15-17

15 Greet the brethren who are in Laodicea and also Nympha and the church that is in her house.

16 When this letter is read among you, have it also read in the church of the Laodiceans; and you, for your part read my letter that is coming from Laodicea.

17 Say to Archippus, "Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it."



2. There were no positive comments or praises to this church.

3. They had become like the city – self-sufficient and independent.

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22 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. "

Christ identifies Himself in 3 ways:

1. "The Amen"

Amen – when we use it - "let it be established", "so be it".

When Christ says He is the "Amen": "I am the One Who establishes", "I am the One Who affirms", "I am the One Who makes things certain." Man has little control over what takes place and therefore needs to be dependent on Christ.

2 Cor 1:20

20 For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.

2. "the faithful and true witness"

- He is completely trustworthy.
- He is perfectly accurate.
- His testimony never fails to be reliable.

3. “the beginning and creation of God.”

John 1:1-3

- 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- 2 He was in the beginning with God.
- 3 All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

Col 1:16-17

- 16 For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities — all things have been created through Him and for Him.

- 17 He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

Heb 1:2

- 2 in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.

***Christ is the source of all creation. Why would you want to live independent from the Creator?**

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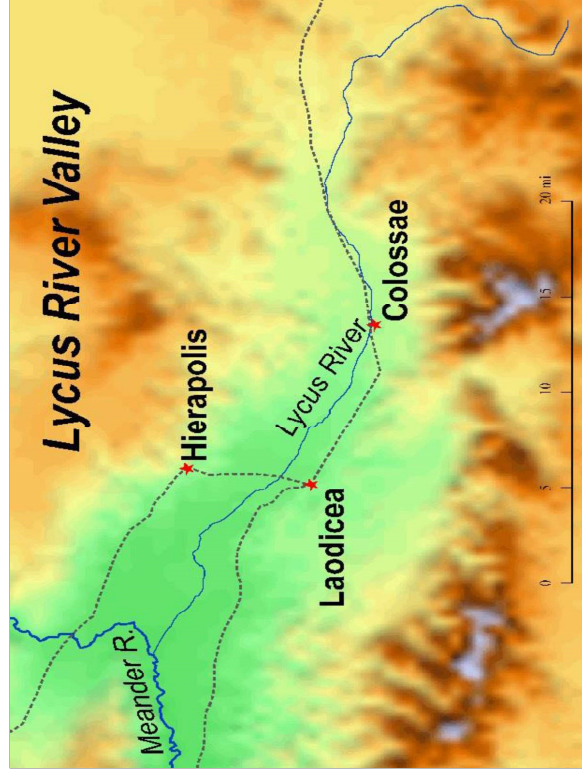
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“hot” - ζεστος – boiling hot.

“cold” – ψυχρος – ice cold.

“lukewarm” - χλιαρος – tepid.

- lacking enthusiasm or conviction; moderate; mild; unemotional; halfhearted; hesitant; indecisive; irresolute; uncertain; uncommitted; unresponsive; indifferent; impassive; languid; phlegmatic; apathetic; nonchalant;

“spit” – εμεω – to vomit. πτωω - to spit.

Isa 19:14

They have led Egypt astray in all that it does,

As a drunken man staggers in his vomit.

“So it is with many churches in our day who are convinced that their social activities and programs are an indicator of their spiritual health. Having lost all capability of introspection by the measure of God’s Word, they are unable to assess their condition by anything other than pragmatic measures and ministry statistics. As they grow in influence and numbers, their willingness to admit of the need for correction continually wanes until they reach a condition much like that of the Laodicean church.”

- Tony Garland

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The deceitfulness of riches -

Mark 8:36

36 "For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul?
1 Tim 6:7-11

7 For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either.

8 If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content.

9 But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction.

10 For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

11 But flee from these things, you man of God, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness.

Prov 30:8-9

8 Keep deception and lies far from me,

Give me neither poverty nor riches;

Feed me with the food that is my portion,

9 That I not be full and deny You and say, "Who is the Lord?"

Or that I not be in want and steal,

And profane the name of my God.

"Materialism is a destructive pathology. Statistics indicate the more money you have the more likely you are to commit suicide. Figures reveal life expectancy decreases as income increases. Money adds to stress and that in turn takes years off one's life. One study shows that money also intensifies moral decline and family disintegration. Marital infidelity and divorce rates rise with income levels. Money cannot buy happiness."

"The fellow that has no money is poor. The fellow that has nothing but money is poorer still."

- Billy Sunday

"They sought their security in their talents, abilities, human resources, and financial wealth. They thought they were protected from all dangers, were insulated from all problems, and immune to every kind of tragedy."

- Keith Krell

Here was the problem:

- spiritual blind
- poor spiritual insight
- a lack of biblical perspective or vision.

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1. "Buy" stands for the concept to acquire or gain. They were used to buying in the physical realm, now Christ asks them to buy in the spiritual realm.
2. "Refined gold" is a biblical idiom for purifying one's life by removing sin.

3. "White garments" stand for a changed character.
4. "Eye salve" represents the opening of their spiritual eyes to the truths of God's Word.

Eph 1:18-19

- 18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,
- 19 and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe.

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The Gospel

1 Cor 15:1-4

- 1 Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, 2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. 3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

Acts 3:19-20

- 19 "Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord;

Acts 4:12

- 12 "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."

John 3:16

- 16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

Acts 16:31

- 31 They said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved,

Rom 10:9-10

- 9 that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;

- 10 for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

Eph 2:8-9

- 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;

- 9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

What are the components of the gospel:

- The substitutionary death of Christ for my sin.
- The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

My response:

- Repentance.
- My faith and belief (trust) in what Christ (alone) has accomplished on the cross for me.

John 1:11-12

11 He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him.

12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name,

Rev 3:14-22

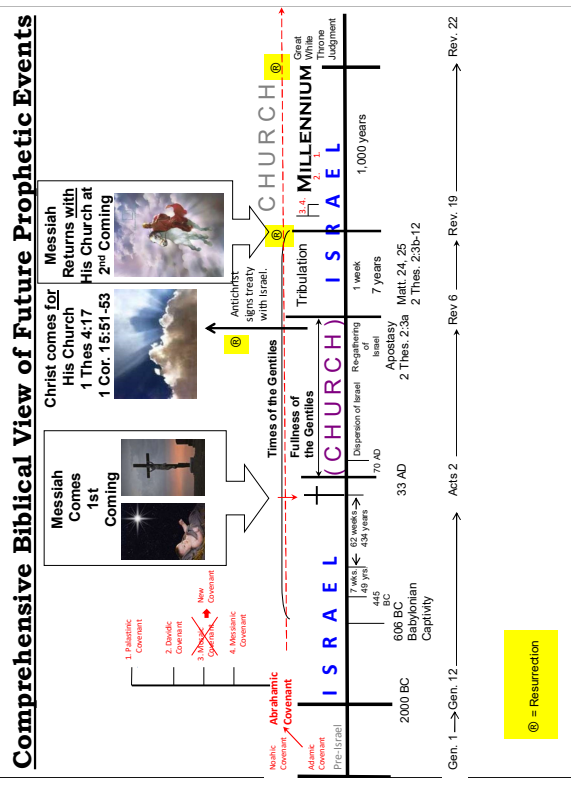
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Stop!

Look!

Listen!

Hear what the Spirit is saying!

Think through these letters.

Chairman of the Board called in the Pastor and said -

“You've been pastor here for a year and you're a fine young man. We like you. You're a good Bible teacher. But there are a couple of things we want you to understand before we renew your contract. First, we want you to know this: This is our church. It is not yours. We were here before you came and we will be here after you leave. We don't want you making a lot of changes in this church. Second, we want you to understand that we hired you, and we can fire you. If you don't like the way we do things, then you will have to go, not us.”



James Edwin Orr
1912-1987

Orr was ordained an American Baptist minister in 1940, attended Northwestern University (MA 1941) and Northern Baptist Seminary (ThD 1943), and served as a chaplain in the U.S. Army Air Corps in the Pacific in World War II. After the war, he continued his schooling, attending Oxford University (PhD 1948) and the University of California at Los Angeles (EdD 1971); he also received honorary degrees from an Indian seminary and the University of South Africa. In 1967 he became a professor in the School of World Missions at Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, California. He wrote at least six hymns.

Search Me, O God

1. Search me, O God,
And know my heart today;
Try me, O Savior,
Know my thoughts, I pray.
See if there be
Some wicked way in me;
Cleanse me from every sin
And set me free.
2. I praise Thee, Lord,
For cleansing me from sin;
Fulfill Thy Word,
And make me pure within.
Fill me with fire
Where once I burned with shame;
Grant my desire
To magnify Thy name.
3. Lord, take my life,
And make it wholly Thine;
Fill my poor heart
With Thy great love divine.
Take all my will,
My passion, self and pride;
I now surrender, Lord
In me abide.
4. O Holy Ghost,
Revival comes from Thee;
Send a revival,
Start the work in me.
Thy Word declares
Thou wilt supply our need;
For blessings now,
O Lord, I humbly plead.